

**Machine Learning for Signal Processing**  
**Sparse and Overcomplete Representations**

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 (slides from Sourish Chaudhuri and Abelino Jimenez)

MLSP 1

1

**So far**

Can we use linear composition to identify **basic units** that compose the signal?

MLSP 2  
 Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

2

**So far**

$D \cdot \alpha \approx X$

↑ Basis      ↓ Weights      ← Data

Data Independent

ICA

PCA

NNMF

# basis <= dim X

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 3

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**Just in case you missed it..**

- Remember, #(Basis Vectors)= #unknowns

$D \cdot \alpha = X$

↑ Basis Vectors      ↑ Weights      ↑ Input data

Standard representations: number of bases <= dimension of data

MLSP 4  
 Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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**A limitation we saw earlier**

- Mathematical restrictions on the number of bases have no connection to reality
  - Universe does not respect your mathematical representations of the data
  - In reality: number of building blocks that compose any kind of data is unlimited
- One solution we saw earlier: picking *one* "closest" building block to represent any input

MLSP 5  
 Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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**Poll 1**

- Mark all true statements about the vector quantization model
  - It represents data as  $v = Dw$  where  $D$  is a dictionary
  - The  $w$  vector in vector-quantization is required to be one-hot
  - K-means clustering is one way of computing the Dictionary for the VQ model
  - The Dictionary is assumed to represent semantically meaningful "bases" that can be used to compose the data
  - The Dictionary may be viewed as a collection of exemplars that all data instances are mapped onto
- What is the difference or similarity between VQ (Kmeans) based representations and KLT/PCA?
  - They are completely different concepts and cannot be compared
  - They are similar in that both of them minimize the L2 divergence between  $v$  and  $Dw$
  - They differ in that in VQ  $w$  must be one-hot and the bases (dictionary) are unrestricted, whereas in KLT/PCA the bases (dictionary) must be orthogonal while  $w$  is unrestricted

MLSP 6  
 Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Poll 1

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 7

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### A limitation we saw earlier

- Mathematical restrictions on the number of bases have no connection to reality
  - Universe does not respect your mathematical representations of the data
  - In reality: number of building blocks that compose any kind of data is unlimited
- One solution we saw earlier: picking *one* "closest" building block to represent any input
- Today: Learning linear compositional representations without restrictions on the number of basic units

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 8

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### Key Topics in this Lecture

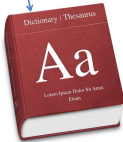
- Basics – Component-based representations
  - Overcomplete and Sparse Representations,
  - Dictionaries
- Pursuit Algorithms
- How to learn a dictionary
- Why is an overcomplete representation powerful?

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 9

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### Representing Data

Dictionary (codebook)

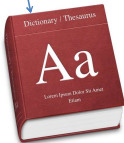


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 10

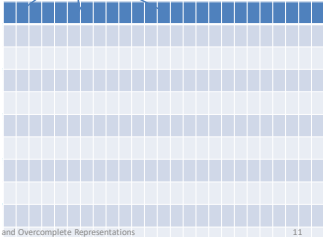
10

### Representing Data

Dictionary



Atoms

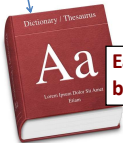


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 11

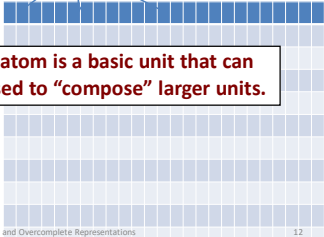
11

### Representing Data

Dictionary



Atoms



Each atom is a basic unit that can be used to "compose" larger units.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 12

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### Representing Data

Atoms

A diagram illustrating sparse representations. At the top, a row of blue rectangles represents 'Atoms'. Below them is a grid. On the left, three images are shown: a tree, a cup, and a soccer ball. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images, indicating their sparse representation. On the right, three images are shown: a horse, a cloud, and a sky. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Atoms

A diagram illustrating sparse representations, similar to slide 13. It shows a row of blue rectangles labeled 'Atoms' and a grid below. On the left, three images are shown: a tree, a cup, and a football. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images. On the right, three images are shown: a horse, a cloud, and a sky. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Atoms

Many such bases (concepts)

A diagram illustrating sparse representations, similar to slide 13. It shows a row of blue rectangles labeled 'Atoms' and a grid below. On the left, three images are shown: a tree, a cup, and a football. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images. On the right, three images are shown: a horse, a cloud, and a sky. Arrows point from specific atoms in the grid to these images. A large yellow banner with red text 'Many such bases (concepts)' is overlaid on the diagram. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

A photograph of a man standing on a sidewalk with a blue pickup truck balanced on his head. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Using concepts that we know...

A photograph of a man standing on a sidewalk with a blue pickup truck balanced on his head. The text 'Using concepts that we know...' is overlaid on the image. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Using concepts that we know...

A photograph of a man standing on a sidewalk with a blue pickup truck balanced on his head. The text 'Using concepts that we know...' is overlaid on the image. To the right is a red dictionary with 'Aa' on the cover. The text 'Sparse and Overcomplete Representations' is at the bottom.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

21

### Representing Data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Representing Data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Quick Linear Algebra Refresher

- Remember, #(Basis Vectors)= #unknowns

$$D \cdot \alpha = X$$

Basis Vectors (from Dictionary) →  $D$   
 Weights →  $\alpha$   
 Input data →  $X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Overcomplete Representations

- What is the dimensionality of the input image? (say 64x64 image)
  - 4096
- What is the dimensionality of the dictionary? (each image = 64x64 pixels)
  - 4096 x N

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 25

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### Overcomplete Representations

- What is the dimensionality of the input image? (say 64x64 image)
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???

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 26

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### Overcomplete Representations

- What is the dimensionality of the input image? (say 64x64 image)
  - 4096
- What is the dimensionality of the dictionary? (each image = 64x64 pixels)
  - 4096 x N

VERY LARGE!!!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 27

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### Overcomplete Representations

- What is the dimensionality of the input image? (say 64x64 image)
  - 4096
- What is the dimensionality of the dictionary? (each image = 64x64 pixels)
  - 4096 x N

VERY LARGE!!!

If  $N > 4096$  (as it likely is) we have an **overcomplete** representation

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 28

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### Overcomplete Representations

- What is the dimensionality of the input image? (say 64x64 image)
  - 4096
- More generally:
  - If # (dictionary units) > dimensions of input we have an **overcomplete** representation

VERY LARGE!!!

➤ 4096 x N

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 29

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### Quick Linear Algebra Refresher

- Remember, #(Basis Vectors) = #unknowns

$$D \cdot \alpha = X$$

Dictionary Units      Weights      Input data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 30

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### Dictionary based Representations

- Overcomplete “dictionary”-based representations are linear-composition-based representations with more “atomic building blocks” than the dimensionality of the data

Bases matrix is wide (more bases than dimensions)

$D \alpha = X$

Input

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### Why Dictionary-based Representations?

- Dictionary based representations are semantically more meaningful
- Enable content-based description
  - Bases can capture entire structures in data
  - E.g. notes in music
  - E.g. image structures (such as faces) in images
- Enable content-based processing
  - Reconstructing, separating, denoising, manipulating speech/music signals
  - Coding, compression, etc.
- Statistical reasons: We will get to that shortly..

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 32

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### Poll 2

- Dictionary-based representations are similar to vector-quantization based representations, except that the weights vector  $w$  is no longer required to be one-hot
  - True
  - False
- Dictionary based representations are similar to PCA/KLT, except that the dictionary entries may exceed the dimensionality of the data in number and are not restricted to being orthogonal
  - True
  - False

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 33

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### Poll 2

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 34

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### Problems

- How to obtain the dictionary
  - Which will give us meaningful representations
- How to compute the weights?

$D \alpha = X$

Input

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### Problems

- How to obtain the dictionary
  - Which will give us meaningful representations
- How to compute the weights?

$D \alpha = X$

Input

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### Quick Linear Algebra Refresher

- Remember, # (Basis Vectors) = # unknowns

$$D \cdot \alpha = X$$

Dictionary entries  $\rightarrow$   $D$   
 Weights  $\rightarrow$   $\alpha$   
 Input data  $\rightarrow$   $X$

When can we solve for  $\alpha$ ?

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 37

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### Quick Linear Algebra Refresher

$$D \cdot \alpha = X$$

D: full rank

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  Unique solution

---

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  We may have no exact solution

---

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  Infinite Solutions

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 38

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### Quick Linear Algebra Refresher

$$D \cdot \alpha = X$$

D: full rank

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  Unique solution

---

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  We may have no exact solution

---

$D \cdot \alpha = X$  Infinite Solutions **Our Case**

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 39

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### Using Pseudo-Inverse?

All points on the red line satisfy  $D \cdot \alpha = X$

Point with the smallest  $\ell_2$  norm

This is equivalent to

minimize  $\|\alpha\|_2$  subject to  $D\alpha = X$

$\alpha$  will generally be "dense"

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 40

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### Overcomplete Representation

Unknown  $\alpha = X$

**#(Basis Vectors) > dimensions of the input**

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 41

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### Representing Data

Using bases that we know...

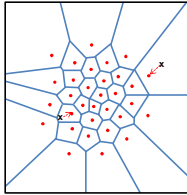
But no more than  $k=4$  bases

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 42

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### Alternate view: Recall quantization

$$V = \sum_i w_i d_i$$

$$V = Dw \quad \begin{matrix} |w| = 1 \\ |w|_0 = 1 \end{matrix}$$


- $d_i$  are the "representative" vectors of each cluster
- Restriction: only one of the  $w_i$  is 1, the rest are 0
  - $\sum_i w_i = 1$
  - $w$  is unit length and one-sparse
- What if we let *more* than one entry of  $w$  to be non zero?

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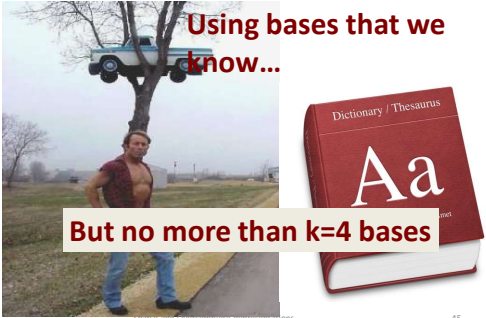
### Overcompleteness and Sparsity

- To solve an overcomplete system of the type:
 
$$D\alpha = X$$
  - Make assumptions about the data.
  - Suppose, we say that  $X$  is composed of no more than a fixed number ( $k$ ) of "bases" from  $D$  ( $k \leq \dim(X)$ )
    - The term "bases" is an abuse of terminology..
  - Now, we can find the set of  $k$  bases that best fit the data point,  $X$ .

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### Representing Data

Using bases that we know...

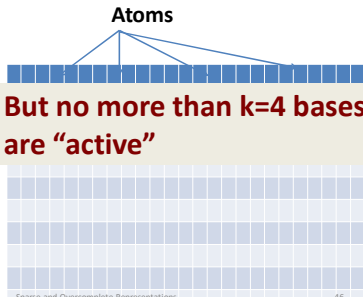


But no more than  $k=4$  bases

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### Overcompleteness and Sparsity

Atoms

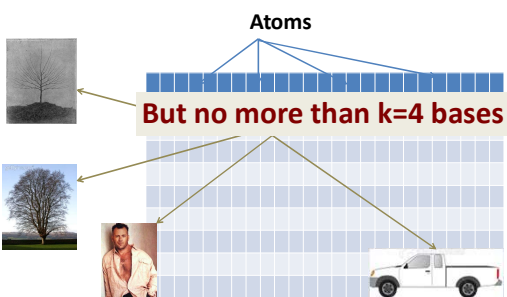


But no more than  $k=4$  bases are "active"

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### Overcompleteness and Sparsity

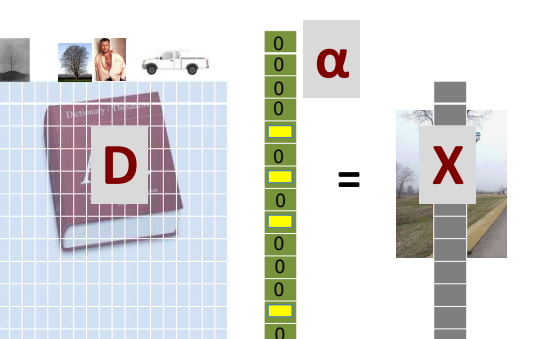
Atoms



But no more than  $k=4$  bases

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### No more than 4 bases



$$D\alpha = X$$

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### No more than 4 bases

ONLY THE  $\alpha$  COMPONENTS CORRESPONDING TO THE 4 KEY DICTIONARY ENTRIES ARE NON-ZERO

$\alpha$

$X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 49

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### No more than 4 bases

ONLY THE  $\alpha$  COMPONENTS CORRESPONDING TO THE 4 KEY DICTIONARY ENTRIES ARE NON-ZERO

MOST OF  $\alpha$  IS ZERO!!

$\alpha$  IS SPARSE

$\alpha$

$X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 50

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### Sparsity- Definition

- Sparse representations* are representations that account for most or all information of a signal with a linear combination of a small number of atoms.

(from: [www.see.ed.ac.uk/~tblumens/Sparse/Sparse.html](http://www.see.ed.ac.uk/~tblumens/Sparse/Sparse.html))

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 51

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### The Sparsity Problem

- We don't really know  $k$
- You are given a signal  $X$
- Assuming  $X$  was generated using the dictionary, can we find  $\alpha$  that generated it?

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 52

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### The Sparsity Problem

- We want to use as few dictionary entries as possible to do this.

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \quad & \|\alpha\|_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X = D\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 53

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### The Sparsity Problem

- We want to use as few dictionary entries as possible to do this.

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \quad & \|\alpha\|_0 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & X = D\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Counts the number of non-zero elements in  $\alpha$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 54

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## The Sparsity Problem

- We want to use **as few dictionary entries** as possible to do this
  - Ockham's razor: Choose the simplest explanation invoking the fewest variables

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\alpha \end{array}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 55

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## Poll 3

- Overcomplete representations can be indeterminate
  - True
  - False
- It is essential to impose sparsity to obtain a unique representation in terms of an overcomplete dictionary
  - True
  - False

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 56

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## Poll 3

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  - True**
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- It is essential to impose sparsity to obtain a unique representation in terms of an overcomplete dictionary
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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 57

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## The Sparsity Problem

- We want to use as few dictionary entries as possible to do this.

$$\begin{array}{l} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\alpha \end{array}$$

**How can we solve the above?**

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 58

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## Obtaining Sparse Solutions

- We will look at 2 algorithms:
  - Matching Pursuit (MP)
  - Basis Pursuit (BP)

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 59

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## Matching Pursuit (MP)


- Greedy algorithm
- Finds an atom in the dictionary that best matches the input signal
- Remove the weighted value of this atom from the signal
- Again, find an atom in the dictionary that best matches the remaining signal.
- Continue till a defined stop condition is satisfied.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 60

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### Matching Pursuit

- Find the dictionary atom that best matches the given signal.

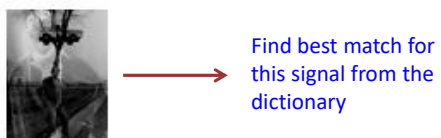


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 61

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### Matching Pursuit

- Remove weighted image to obtain updated signal

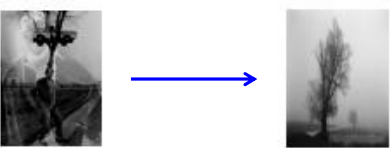


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### Matching Pursuit

- Find best match for updated signal

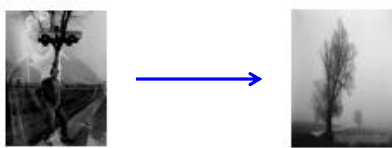


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### Matching Pursuit

- Find best match for updated signal



Iterate till you reach a stopping condition,  
**norm(ResidualInputSignal) < threshold**

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 64

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### Matching Pursuit

```

Algorithm Matching Pursuit
Input: Signal:  $f(t)$ .
Output: List of coefficients:  $(a_n, g_{\gamma_n})$ .
Initialization:
 $Rf_1 \leftarrow f(t)$ ;
Repeat
  find  $g_{\gamma_n} \in D$  with maximum inner product  $\langle Rf_n, g_{\gamma_n} \rangle$ ;
   $a_n \leftarrow \langle Rf_n, g_{\gamma_n} \rangle$ ;
   $Rf_{n+1} \leftarrow Rf_n - a_n g_{\gamma_n}$ ;
   $n \leftarrow n + 1$ ;
Until stop condition (for example:  $\|Rf_n\| < threshold$ )
    
```

From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matching\\_pursuit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matching_pursuit)

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 65

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### Matching Pursuit

- Problems ???

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 66

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## Matching Pursuit

- Main Problem
  - Computational complexity
  - The entire dictionary has to be searched at every iteration

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## Comparing MP and BP

Matching Pursuit	Basis Pursuit
Hard thresholding	(remember the equations)
Greedy optimization at each step	
Weights obtained using greedy rules	

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## Basis Pursuit (BP)

- Remember,

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min}_{\underline{\alpha}} \|\underline{\alpha}\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{array}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Basis Pursuit

- Remember,

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min}_{\underline{\alpha}} \|\underline{\alpha}\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{array}$$

In the general case, this is intractable

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Basis Pursuit

- Remember,

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min}_{\underline{\alpha}} \|\underline{\alpha}\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{array}$$

In the general case, this is intractable

Requires combinatorial optimization

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Basis Pursuit

- Replace the intractable expression by an expression that is solvable

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Min}_{\underline{\alpha}} \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \\ \text{s.t. } \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{array}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Basis Pursuit

- Replace the intractable expression by an expression that is solvable

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \quad & \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

This will provide identical solutions when  $\mathbf{D}$  obeys the **Restricted Isometry Property**.

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### Basis Pursuit

- Replace the intractable expression by an expression that is solvable

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \quad & \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \underline{X} = \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha} \end{aligned}$$

Objective

Constraint

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 74

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### Basis Pursuit

- We can formulate the optimization term as:

$$\underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \{ \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 + \lambda \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \}$$

Constraint                      Objective

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 75

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### Basis Pursuit

- We can formulate the optimization term as:

$$\underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \{ \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 + \lambda \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \}$$

$\lambda$  is a penalty term on the non-zero elements and promotes sparsity

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 76

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### Basis Pursuit

Equivalent to **LASSO**; for more details, see [this paper by Tibshirani](http://www-stat.stanford.edu/~tibs/ftp/lasso.ps)

<http://www-stat.stanford.edu/~tibs/ftp/lasso.ps>

$$\underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \{ \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 + \lambda \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \}$$

$\lambda$  is a penalty term on the non-zero elements and promotes sparsity

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 77

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### Basis Pursuit

$$\underset{\underline{\alpha}}{\text{Min}} \{ \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 + \lambda \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1 \}$$

$$\frac{\partial \|\underline{\alpha}\|_1}{\partial \alpha_j} = \begin{cases} +1 & \text{at } \alpha_j > 0 \\ [-1, 1] & \text{at } \alpha_j = 0 \\ -1 & \text{at } \alpha_j < 0 \end{cases}$$

- $\|\alpha\|_1$  is not differentiable at  $\alpha_j = 0$
- Gradient of  $\|\alpha\|_1$  for gradient descent update
- At optimum, following conditions hold

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_j \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 + \lambda \text{sign}(\alpha_j) &= 0, \quad \text{if } |\alpha_j| > 0 \\ \nabla_j \|\underline{X} - \mathbf{D}\underline{\alpha}\|^2 &\leq \lambda, \quad \text{if } \alpha_j = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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### Basis Pursuit

- There are efficient ways to solve the LASSO formulation.
  - [http://web.stanford.edu/~hastie/glmnet\\_matlab/](http://web.stanford.edu/~hastie/glmnet_matlab/)
- Simplest solution: Coordinate descent algorithms
  - On webpage..

MLSP  
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### L<sub>1</sub> vs L<sub>0</sub>

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_0 \\ \text{s.t. } X = D\alpha \end{aligned}$$

- L<sub>0</sub> minimization
  - Two-sparse solution
  - ANY pair of bases can explain X with 0 error

MLSP  
Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 80

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### L<sub>1</sub> vs L<sub>0</sub>

$$\begin{aligned} \underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_1 \\ \text{s.t. } X = D\alpha \end{aligned}$$

- L<sub>1</sub> minimization
  - Two-sparse solution
  - All else being equal, the two closest bases are chosen

MLSP  
Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 81

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### Comparing MP and BP

Matching Pursuit	Basis Pursuit
Hard thresholding	Soft thresholding
(remember the equations)	
Greedy optimization at each step	Global optimization
Weights obtained using greedy rules	Can force N-sparsity with appropriately chosen weights

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 82

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### General Formalisms

- L<sub>0</sub> minimization  $\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_0$
- L<sub>0</sub> constrained optimization  $\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|X - D\alpha\|_2^2$   
s.t.  $\|\alpha\|_0 < C$
- L<sub>1</sub> minimization  $\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|\alpha\|_1$
- L<sub>1</sub> constrained optimization  $\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \|X - D\alpha\|_2^2$   
s.t.  $\|\alpha\|_1 < C$

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### Many Other Methods..

- Iterative Hard Thresholding (IHT)
- CoSAMP
- OMP
- ...

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 84

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### Poll 4

- Which of the following are valid ways of obtaining a sparse representation  $w$ 
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_0$  while constraining  $X = Dw$
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_0$  while constraining  $X \leq Dw$
  - Minimize  $\|X - Dw\|^2 + \lambda \|w\|_1$
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_2$  while constraining  $X \leq Dw$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 85

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### Poll 4

- Which of the following are valid ways of obtaining a sparse representation  $w$ 
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_0$  while constraining  $X = Dw$**
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_0$  while constraining  $X \leq Dw$
  - Minimize  $\|X - Dw\|^2 + \lambda \|w\|_1$**
  - Minimize  $\|w\|_2$  while constraining  $X \leq Dw$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 86

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### Problems

- How to obtain the dictionary
  - Which will give us meaningful representations
- How to compute the weights?

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### Trivial Solution

- $D =$  Training data
- Impractical in most situations
  - Popular approach: sample random vectors from training data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 88

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### Dictionaries: Compressive Sensing

- Just random vectors!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 89

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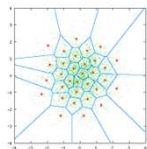
### More Structured ways of Constructing Dictionaries

- Dictionary entries must be structurally "meaningful"
  - Represent true compositional units of data
- Have already encountered two ways of building dictionaries
  - NMF for non-negative data
  - K-means ..

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### K-Means for Composing Dictionaries



Train the codebook from training data using K-means

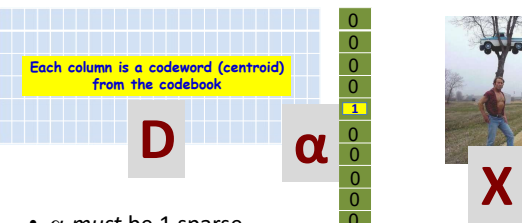
- Every vector is approximated by the centroid of the cluster it falls into
- Cluster means are “codebook” entries
  - Dictionary entries
  - Also compositional units the compose the data

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 91

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### K-Means for Dictionaries

Each column is a codeword (centroid) from the codebook

$$D \alpha = X$$


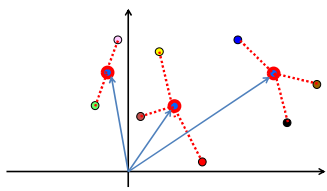
- $\alpha$  must be 1 sparse
- Only  $\alpha$  entry must 1

$$\|\alpha\|_0 = 1 \quad \|\alpha\|_1 = 1$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 92

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### K-Means



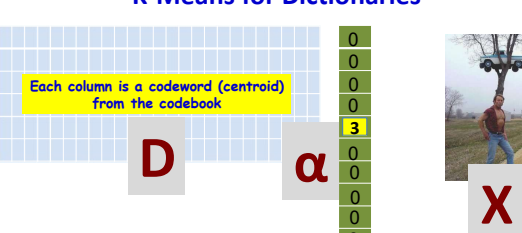
- Learn Codewords to minimize the total squared length of the training vectors from the closest codeword

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 93

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### Length-unconstrained K-Means for Dictionaries

Each column is a codeword (centroid) from the codebook

$$D \alpha = X$$


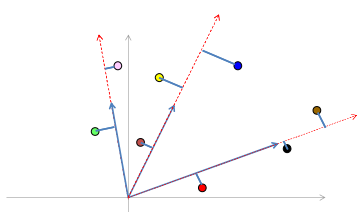
- $\alpha$  must be 1 sparse
- No restriction on  $\alpha$  value

$$\|\alpha\|_0 = 1$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 94

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### SVD K-Means



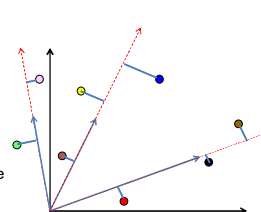
- Learn Codewords to minimize the total squared *projection error* of the training vectors from the closest codeword

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 95

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### SVD K-means

1. Initialize a set of (unit-length) centroids randomly
2. For each data point  $x$ , find the projection from the centroid for each cluster
  - $p_{cluster} = |x^T m_{cluster}|$
3. Put data point in the cluster of the closest centroid
  - Cluster for which  $p_{cluster}$  is maximum
4. When all data points are clustered, recompute centroids

$$m_{cluster} = \text{Principal Eigenvector}(\{x \mid x \in \text{cluster}\})$$


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 96

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### Problem

- Only represents *Radial* patterns

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 97

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### What about this pattern?

- Dictionary entries that represent radial patterns will not capture this structure  
– 1-sparse representations will not do

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 98

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### What about this pattern?

- We need **AFFINE** patterns

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 99

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### What about this pattern?

- We need **AFFINE** patterns
- Each vector is modeled by a linear combination of  $K$  (here 2) bases

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 100

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### What about this pattern?

Every line is a (constrained) combination of two bases

**2-sparse**

Constraint:  
Line =  $a \cdot b_1 + (1-a) \cdot b_2$

- We need **AFFINE** patterns
- Each vector is modeled by a linear combination of  $K$  (here 2) bases

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 101

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### Codebooks for $K$ sparsity?

Each column is a codeword (centroid) from the codebook

0
0
0
0
3
0
1
0
0
0
4
0
0
0
0

**D**

**$\alpha$**

**X**

- $\alpha$  must be  $k$  sparse
- No restriction on  $\alpha$  value

$\|\alpha\|_0 = k$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 102

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### Formalizing

Given training data

$$\{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_T\}$$

We want to find a dictionary  $D$ , such that

$$D\alpha_i = X_i$$

With  $\alpha_i$  sparse

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### Formalizing

Two objectives:

- Approximation  $\|D\alpha_i - X_i\|$
- Sparsity in coefficients  $\|\alpha_i\|_1$

$$\min_{D, \alpha_i} \sum_{i=1}^T \|X_i - D\alpha_i\|^2 + \|\alpha_i\|_1$$

NON-Convex!!!

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### An iterative method

- Given  $D$ , estimate  $\alpha_i$  to get sparse solution
  - We can use any method

$$\min_{\alpha_i} \sum_{i=1}^T \|X_i - D\alpha_i\|^2 + \|\alpha_i\|_1$$

- Given  $\alpha_i$ , estimate  $D$

$$\min_D \sum_{i=1}^T \|X_i - D\alpha_i\|^2$$

Difficult!

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### K SVD

- Initialize Codebook

$D =$

1. For every vector, compute K-sparse alphas

$\alpha =$

- Using any pursuit algorithm

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### K-SVD

2. For each codeword ( $k$ ):

- For each vector  $x$  that used  $k$ 
  - Subtract the contribution of all other codewords to obtain  $e_k(x)$ 
    - Codeword-specific residual
- Compute the principal Eigen vector of  $\{e_k(x)\}$

$e_k(x) = x - \sum_{j \neq k} \alpha_j D_j$

$D_j, j \neq 1$

$\alpha(x), j \neq 1$

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### K-SVD

- Termination of each iteration: Updated dictionary
- Conclusion: A dictionary where any data vector can be composed of at most K dictionary entries
  - More generally, sparse composition

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### K-SVD algorithm (skip)

**Initialization :** Set the random normalized dictionary matrix  $D^{(0)} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times K}$ . Set  $J = 1$ . Repeat until convergence.

**Sparse Coding Stage:** Use any pursuit algorithm to compute  $\mathbf{x}_i$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$

$$\min_{\mathbf{x}} \{ \|\mathbf{y}_i - D\mathbf{x}\|_2^2 \} \text{ subject to } \|\mathbf{x}\|_0 \leq T_0.$$

**Codebook Update Stage:** For  $k = 1, 2, \dots, K$

- Define the group of examples that use  $\mathbf{d}_k$ ,  $\omega_k = \{i | 1 \leq i \leq N, \mathbf{x}_i(k) \neq 0\}$ .
- Compute 
$$E_k = Y - \sum_{j \neq k} \mathbf{d}_j \mathbf{x}_j^T.$$
- Restrict  $E_k$  by choosing only the columns corresponding to those elements that initially used  $\mathbf{d}_k$  in their representation, and obtain  $E_k^R$ .
- Apply SVD decomposition  $E_k^R = U\Delta V^T$ . Update:  $\mathbf{d}_k = \mathbf{u}_1, \mathbf{x}_k^R = \Delta(1, 1) \cdot \mathbf{v}_1$ .

Set  $J = J + 1$ . Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Problems

- How to obtain the dictionary
  - Which will give us meaningful representations
- How to compute the weights?

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### So how does that work

- In case you forgot this music...
- 975 vectors (1025 dimensions)
- $N=12, K=5$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 111

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### K-SVD bases

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 112

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### Applications of Sparse Representations

- Many many applications
  - Signal representation
  - Statistical modelling
  - ..
  - We've seen one: Compressive sensing
- Another popular use
  - Denoising**

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 113

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### Denoising

- As the name suggests, remove noise!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 114

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### Denoising

- As the name suggests, remove noise!
- We will look at image denoising as an example

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 115

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### A toy example

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 116

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### A toy example

$D = [I \ G]$       $I$  Identity matrix  
     $G$  Translation of a Gaussian pulse

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### Image Denoising

- Here's what we want

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 118

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### Image Denoising

- Here's what we want

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 119

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### Image Denoising

- Here's what we want

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 120

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### The Image Denoising Problem

- Given an image
- Remove Gaussian additive noise from it

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### Image Denoising

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 122

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### Image Denoising

- Remove the noise from  $\mathbf{Y}$ , to obtain  $\mathbf{X}$  as best as possible.

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 123

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### Image Denoising

- Remove the noise from  $\mathbf{Y}$ , to obtain  $\mathbf{X}$  as best as possible
- Using sparse representations over learned dictionaries

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 124

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### Image Denoising

- Remove the noise from  $\mathbf{Y}$ , to obtain  $\mathbf{X}$  as best as possible
- Using sparse representations over learned dictionaries
- We will *learn* the dictionaries

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 125

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### Image Denoising

- Remove the noise from  $\mathbf{Y}$ , to obtain  $\mathbf{X}$  as best as possible
- Using sparse representations over learned dictionaries
- We will *learn* the dictionaries
- What data will we use? *The corrupted image itself!*

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Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 126

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## Image Denoising

- We use the data to be denoised to learn the dictionary.
- Training and denoising become an iterated process.
- We use image patches of size  $\sqrt{n} \times \sqrt{n}$  pixels (i.e. if the image is 64x64, patches are 8x8)

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Image Denoising

- The data dictionary D
  - Size =  $n \times k$  ( $k > n$ )
  - This is known and fixed, to start with
  - Every image patch can be sparsely represented using D

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Image Denoising

- Recall our equations from before.
- We want to find  $\alpha$  so as to minimize the value of the equation below:

$$\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \{ \|X - D\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_0 \}$$

$$\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \{ \|X - D\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_1 \}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \{ \|X - D\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_1 \}$$

- In the above, X is a patch.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha}{\text{Min}} \{ \|X - D\alpha\|^2 + \lambda \|\alpha\|_1 \}$$

- In the above, X is a patch.
- If the larger image is fully expressed by the every patch in it, how can we go from patches to the image?

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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## Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \}$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

(X - Y) is the error between the input and denoised image.  $\mu$  is a penalty on the error.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 133

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

↓

Error bounding in each patch  
 -  $R_{ij}$  selects the (ij)<sup>th</sup> patch  
 - Terms in summation = no. of patches

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 134

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

λ forces sparsity

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 135

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### Image Denoising

- But, we don't "know" our dictionary D.
- We want to estimate D as well.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 136

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### Image Denoising

- But, we don't "know" our dictionary D.
- We want to estimate D as well.

$$\underset{D, \alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

We can use the previous equation itself!!!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 137

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{D, \alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

How do we estimate all 3 at once?

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 138

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{D, \alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij} X - D \alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

How do we estimate all 3 at once?

We cannot estimate them at the same time!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 139

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{D, \alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij} X - D \alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

How do we estimate all 3 at once?

Fix 2, and find the optimal 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 140

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{D, \alpha_{ij}, X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij} X - D \alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

Initialize X = Y

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 141

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{\alpha_{ij}}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij} X - D \alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

Initialize X = Y, initialize D  
You know how to solve the remaining portion for  $\alpha$  – MP, BP!

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 142

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### Image Denoising

- Now, update the dictionary D.
- Update D one column at a time, following the [K-SVD algorithm](#)
- K-SVD maintains the sparsity structure

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 143

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### Image Denoising

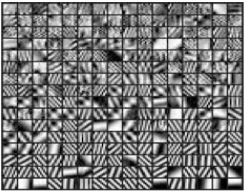
- Now, update the dictionary D.
- Update D one column at a time, following the [K-SVD algorithm](#)
- K-SVD maintains the sparsity structure
- Iteratively update  $\alpha$  and D

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 144

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### Image Denoising



Learned Dictionary for Face Image denoising

From: M. Elad and M. Aharon, *Image denoising via learned dictionaries and sparse representation*, CVPR, 2006.

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 145

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

→ Const. wrt X

We know D and  $\alpha$   
The quadratic term above has a closed-form solution

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 146

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### Image Denoising

$$\underset{X}{\text{Min}} \left\{ \mu \|X - Y\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \|R_{ij}X - D\alpha_{ij}\|_2^2 + \sum_{ij} \lambda_{ij} \|\alpha_{ij}\|_0 \right\}$$

→ Const. wrt X

We know D and  $\alpha$

$$X = (\mu I + \sum_{ij} R_{ij}^T R_{ij})^{-1} (\mu Y + \sum_{ij} R_{ij}^T D \alpha_{ij})$$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 147

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### Image Denoising

- Summarizing... We wanted to obtain 3 things

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 148

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### Image Denoising

- Summarizing... We wanted to obtain 3 things
  - Weights  $\alpha$
  - Dictionary  $D$
  - Denoised Image  $X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 149

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### Image Denoising

- Summarizing... We wanted to obtain 3 things
  - Weights  $\alpha$  – Your favorite pursuit algorithm
  - Dictionary  $D$  – Using K-SVD
  - Denoised Image  $X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 150

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### Image Denoising

- Summarizing... We wanted to obtain 3 things
  - Weights  $\alpha$  – Your favorite pursuit algorithm
  - Dictionary  $D$  – Using K-SVD Iterating
  - Denoised Image  $X$

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 151

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### Image Denoising

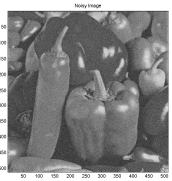
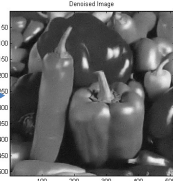
- Summarizing... We wanted to obtain 3 things
  - Weights  $\alpha$
  - Dictionary  $D$
  - Denoised Image  $X$ - Closed form solution

Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 152

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### Image Denoising

- Here's what we want




➔


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 153

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### Image Denoising

- Here's what we want




➔


Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 154

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### Comparing to Other Techniques

Non-Gaussian data

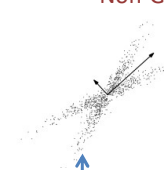
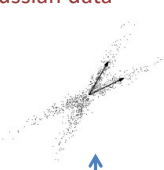
PCA of ICA    Which is which?

Images from Lewicki and Sejnowski, *Learning Overcomplete Representations*, 2000.  
Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 155

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### Comparing to Other Techniques

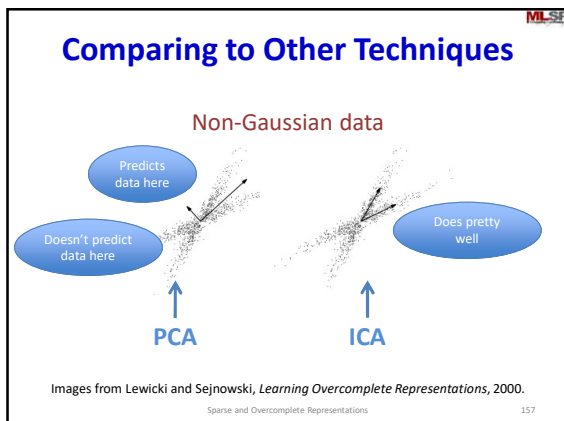
Non-Gaussian data

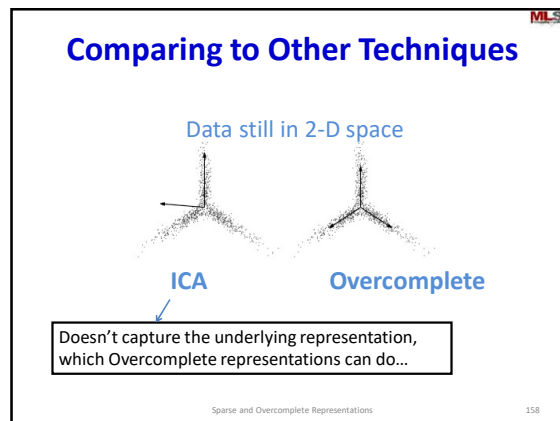
PCA                      ICA

Images from Lewicki and Sejnowski, *Learning Overcomplete Representations*, 2000.  
Sparse and Overcomplete Representations 156

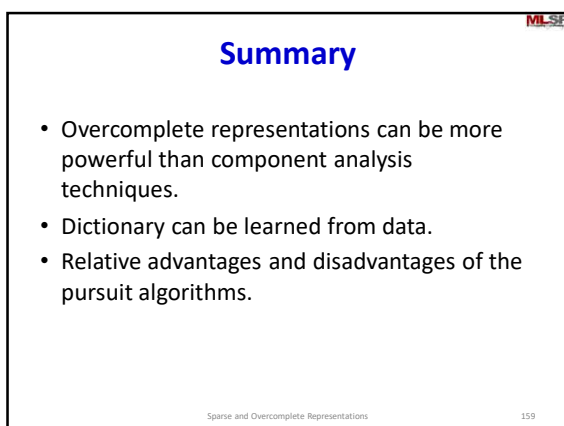
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